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INTERIOR ANNOUNCES HUNTING "FRAMEWORK" FOR RAILS, GALLINULES,
WOODCOCK, SNIPE, MIGRATORY BIRDS IN ALASKA, AND ATLANTIC SEA DUCKS

The pattern approved by Secretary Udall, within which States may select their specific seasons, is:

WOODCOCK

From September 1 through January 30, each State in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a season of 50 consecutive days with daily bag and possession limits of 5 and 10. Daily shooting hours are sunrise until sunset in all States except New York, where daily shooting hours are 7 a.m. until 5 p.m., official prevailing time.

RAILS AND GALLINULES

Within dates of September 1 through January 15, each State in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a season of 70 consecutive days. Daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30, singly or in the aggregate of all species, in these flyways. Daily shooting hours are sunrise until sunset.

No season on rails is prescribed in the Pacific Flyway because of low hunter interest. When seasons on waterfowl and coots are set for the Pacific Flyway, the taking of gallinules with coots will be considered.

COMMON SNIFE (WILSON'S)

From September 1 through January 15, Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway States may select a season of 50 consecutive days, with daily bag of 8 and possession limit of 16. Daily shooting hours are sunrise until sunset.

Pacific Flyway States will select seasons on snipe when waterfowl seasons are selected. Such seasons must fall within outside dates prescribed for waterfowl. Shooting hours in the Pacific Flyway will be from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset. Season lengths and limits will be the same in all flyways.

SCOTER, EIDER, AND OLD-SQUAW DUCKS (ATLANTIC FLYWAY)

A special open season for scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks is set between September 25 and January 10 in all coastal waters, and in rivers and streams "seaward from the first upstream bridge" in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut; and in "those coastal waters of New York State in Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound and waters of Gardiners Bay lying east of a line from Long Beach Bay lighthouse to the most easterly point of Ram Head on Shelter Island to Cedar Point light, but not including coastal waters on the south side of Long Island." Also, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia may have such a special season in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay which is separated by at least one mile of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation, if such areas have been designated as special sea duck hunting areas by the States involved.

Daily shooting hours are sunrise until sunset, daily bag limit is 7 and possession limit is 14, singly or in the aggregate.

In other areas of these States, and in other States of the Atlantic Flyway, such ducks may be taken only during open seasons for other ducks. During the regular open season in the Atlantic Flyway, a daily bag limit of 7 and a possession limit of 14 scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks, singly or in the aggregate of these species, will be permitted in addition to the bag limits on other ducks.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS IN ALASKA

Alaska may select seasons on waterfowl, coots, and common snipe within outside dates of September 1 through January 27. The conditions:

1. Daily shooting hours on all species are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset;
2. An open season of 61 consecutive full days for snipe;
3. In the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands, except Unimak Island, an open season of 105 consecutive days between October 15 and January 27 for brant, geese, ducks, and coots;
4. In the remainder of Alaska, including Unimak Island, an open season of 105 consecutive days within outside dates of September 1 and January 15 for brant, geese, ducks, and coots;
5. Bag and possession limits:

Ducks: a basic bag limit of 5 and a possession limit of 10. In addition, hunters are permitted a daily bag of 2 and a possession of 4 scaup ducks, with a daily bag of 15 and possession of 30, singly or in the aggregate, of scoter, eider, old-squaw, harlequin, and American and red-breasted mergansers.

Geese: a daily bag of 6 and possession limit of 12, of which not more than 3 daily may be Canada geese or subspecies, and white-fronted geese;

Brant: daily bag and possession limit of 3;

Coots: daily bag and possession limit of 15;

Snipe: daily bag of 8, possession limit of 16.

An open season for little brown cranes in Alaska is allowed from September 1 through October 15, with daily bag of 2 and possession limit of 4. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.